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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Forty-first session
10-21 March 1997
Agenda item 3 (a)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN:
REVIEW OF MAINSTREAMING IN ORGANIZATIONS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Australia*, Canada* and New Zealand*: draft resolution

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6, in which the Council decided that the Commission on the Status of Women would have a catalytic role in mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes and would identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination function,

Emphasizing the need for full implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001,

Welcoming the note by the Secretary-General on agreed conclusions 1996/1 adopted by the Economic and Social Council on coordination of United Nations system activities for poverty eradication,[1] in particular its emphasis on the

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] E/CN.6/1997/6.

mainstreaming of a gender perspective in United Nations activities for poverty eradication,

Having considered the question of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system and the statement in the report of the Secretary-General that comments from the Commission on the Status of Women on mainstreaming would provide valuable input into the preparation of the report requested for the Economic and Social Council at its coordination segment in 1997,[2]

1. Reaffirms that mainstreaming a gender perspective is integral to the empowerment of women and to achieving gender equality;

2. Welcomes the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women,[3] which underscore the importance of implementing the commitments to mainstream a gender perspective by translating the concept into practical action and, in this regard, notes the steps involved in mainstreaming a gender perspective into programming and policy-making;[4]

3. Also welcomes the efforts to increase cooperation between the Division for the Advancement of Women and other parts of the United Nations system in such areas as peacekeeping and humanitarian affairs and the results already achieved with respect to the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of Agenda 21, as well as the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the World Food Summit;

4. Welcomes the initial sessions of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality and the importance of its work in regularly monitoring progress made in incorporating a gender perspective in institutional structures, policies and programming and in integrated Conference follow-up;

5. Stresses that particular attention should be paid to the need to intensify cooperation and coordination efforts to ensure that the equal status and human rights of all women and the girl child are integrated in United Nations system-wide activities, as well as to the means of achieving this, as noted in Commission on the Status of Women resolution 40/3 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/48 in particular, and in view of the critical areas of concern to be discussed by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session, the need to ensure that the reports of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences are brought to the attention of the Commission on the Status of Women;

6. Reiterates the importance of inter-secretariat linkages such as the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for

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[2] E/CN.6/1997/2, para. 15.

[3] A/51/322 and E/CN.6/1997/2.

[4] See A/51/322, para. 14.

Human Rights and the need for this plan to be considered fully by the Commission on Human Rights;

7. Stresses the need for steps to be taken to integrate a gender perspective into human rights activities and programmes, bearing in mind the guidelines contained in the report of the expert group meeting on the development of guidelines for the integration of a gender perspective into human rights activities and programmes,[5] including reporting under international human rights instruments and mechanisms and in the preparations for the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[6] and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;[7]

8. Requests the Secretariat, in the context of its review of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women in 1998, to give specific attention to mainstreaming;

9. Recalls that the Committee for Programme and Coordination agreed to ensure, in its examination of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, that the mainstreaming of a gender perspective was reflected in the individual programmes of the medium-term plan;[8]

10. Emphasizes that the implementation of the Platform for Action requires the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, and in this regard notes with appreciation the conclusion of the Inter-Agency Committee that mainstreaming is a responsibility of the United Nations system as a whole and of all staff in all policy and programme areas and in decision-making;

11. Encourages the Economic and Social Council:

(a) To assess the achievements made and obstacles encountered in mainstreaming a gender perspective at the intergovernmental level, including the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions and the functional commissions, in the United Nations system, including the Secretariat, and in all operational activities, including at the field level;

(b) To suggest practical tools and methodologies for monitoring regularly progress in mainstreaming, especially at senior levels, through, inter alia, performance indicators, mechanisms for accountability, impact analysis and identification of best practices;

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[5] E/CN.4/1996/105, annex.

[6] Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

[7] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[8] A/51/16 (Part I), para. 167.

(c) To stress the importance of strengthening expertise on gender issues generally and in specialized areas, through assessment of the impact of training;

(d) To stress the need to draw on the considerable experience and expertise which exists within the Division for the Advancement of Women and other gender units/focal points to provide advice and encourage efforts to develop and enhance cooperation and linkages between these units and other parts of the system, including within the Inter-Agency Committee, in order to broaden responsibility for the implementation of mainstreaming;

(e) To call upon United Nations departments and bodies, in the context of preparation of the programme budget for the period 1998-1999, to mainstream gender perspectives into their programmes in line with the recommendations of the Platform for Action, and to identify clearly those activities that are necessary to achieve that objective;

(f) To call for sufficient human and financial resources within the regular budget of the United Nations, including resources for the Division for the Advancement of Women, in order to carry out all tasks foreseen in the Platform for Action, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/203;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Forty-first session
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PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

Draft provisional agenda and documentation

Note by the Secretariat

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women:

   (a) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system

   Mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001

   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern.

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Documentation

Analytical report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues before the Commission in accordance with the multi-year work programme, including, as far as possible, progress made in national implementation, based on available existing data and statistics

Synthesis report on implementation plans of Governments, based, inter alia, on national action plans and any other sources of information already available in the United Nations system

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Lists of confidential and non-confidential communications concerning the status of women

5. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-second session.

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Agenda item 3

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson

Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women

The Commission on the Status of Women takes note of the proposed programme of work of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat for the biennium 1998-1999 contained in document E/CN.6/1997/CRP.2, and offers the following comments:

(a) Efforts should go forward to improve service to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the decision for the Committee to hold two regular annual sessions in 1997 onwards, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/68 of 12 December 1996, in order to deal with the increasing number of States parties' reports submitted under article 18 of the Convention;

(b) Sufficient resources should be made available to the Division for the Advancement of Women to effectively provide increased substantive support to the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, in view of the importance placed on the work of the Special Adviser and the Division in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, including the work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality;

(c) The Commission supports the increased efforts by the Division for the Advancement of Women to contribute actively to mainstreaming the human rights of women within the general human rights activities of the United Nations, and the increased cooperation between the Division and the Centre for Human Rights for that purpose, as shown in the joint programme of work presented for 1997, and underlines the importance of devoting a portion of the resources for technical assistance available to the Centre to mainstreaming women's human rights, in cooperation with the Division;

(d) Intensified activities in coordination and outreach by the Division, including its recurrent publications, is appreciated, in particular the proposal to continue the publication Women 2000 in its new streamlined format as an important outlet for emerging issues in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, for dissemination to Governments and non-governmental organizations, as well as the WomenWatch web site being developed jointly by the Division, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, which provides information electronically in a timely fashion on the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and Governments, including the text of national action plans or strategies.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Text submitted by the Chairperson on the follow-up to agreed conclusions 1996/1 of the Economic and Social Council

The Commission on the Status of Women welcomes agreed conclusions 1996/1 of the Economic and Social Council on the coordination of United Nations system activities for poverty eradication. The agreed conclusions provide a framework for ensuring coordination of the multi-year work programmes of functional commissions and a better division of labour among them with a view to promoting a coordinated and integrated follow-up to major United Nations conferences. The Commission the Status of Women wishes to inform the Council of the following measures that it will adopt in order to implement agreed conclusions 1996/1:

(a) The Commission on the Status of Women considered the theme of poverty eradication at its fortieth session, in 1996. In accordance with its multi-year work programme, issues relating to poverty eradication will also be considered in 1998 within the framework of the review of the synthesized report of national action plans and of the mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001. In this way, the Commission can provide an input to the overall review of the theme of poverty eradication to be undertaken by the Council;

(b) The Commission on the Status of Women adopted, at its forty-first session, agreed conclusions on the theme "Women and the environment". Those agreed conclusions shall be transmitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development as a contribution to the review on the implementation of Agenda 21;

(c) The Commission on the Status of Women has a special responsibility to promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the process of review of the implementation of the results of major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields, including in the areas of poverty

eradication. The Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women will contact the chairpersons of other functional commissions of the Council with responsibility for the follow-up of United Nations conferences with a view to considering ways and means to cooperate in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in areas falling under the mandate of other functional commissions, and to coordinate mutual inputs to discussions by the various functional commissions of priority topics, as appropriate. The Secretariat will bring to the attention of other functional commissions relevant decisions of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(d) The Commission on the Status of Women shall undertake in 1998 an overall review of the theme "Human rights of women". In accordance with paragraph 45 of agreed conclusions 1996/1, the Commission on Human Rights should consider providing an input to the Commission on the Status of women on ensuring women's real enjoyment of their human rights, in particular those relating to economic resources. With a view to facilitating interaction between the two Commissions, the Secretariat is invited to submit a report on this subject to both the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights and the Division on the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat. The Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women will contact the Chairperson of the Commission of Human Rights with a view to examining the best way to ensure cooperation in the review of the subject of the human rights of women;

(e) The Commission on the Status of Women adopted agreed conclusions on the theme "Education and training of women" at its forty-first session. It will review the theme "Women and health" in 1999. The agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on those two subjects can be transmitted, as appropriate, to the Commission for Social Development, which will consider issues related to social services at its session of 1999, as well as to the 1999 session of the Commission on Population and Development, which will consider the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women will contact the President of the Council and the chairpersons of the commissions mentioned in paragraph 57 of agreed conclusions 1996/1 with a view to examining ways of ensuring a proper division of labour when reviewing the theme of basic social services for all;

(f) The Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with paragraph 58 of agreed conclusions 1990/1, would welcome an input from the Statistical Commission on the statistical implications of the Beijing Platform for Action. The Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women will contact the Chairperson of the Statistical Commission with a view to examining how such input could be provided in a manner that enhances the opportunity for the Commission on the Status of Women to consider this subject.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Draft decision submitted by the Chairperson

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends the following decision for adoption by the Economic and Social Council:

Functional commissions

The Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,[1] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[2] and the Beijing Platform for Action,[3] and recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 51/96, 51/118 and 51/202 dealing with the implementation of the outcome of United Nations conferences and the role of the functional commissions in the three-tiered intergovernmental process in the follow-up to the above-mentioned programmes of action, decides that every effort should be made to ensure that there is no overlap between the sessions of the functional commissions engaged in the follow-up to United Nations conferences.

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[1] See Report of the World Conference on Human rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

[2] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairperson

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Agreed conclusions on the critical areas of concern

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, by which a multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women was adopted as a framework for assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Platform for Action,

Noting that the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session reviewed progress achieved in implementation of the Platform for Action in the critical areas of concern: women and the environment; women in power and decision-making; women and the economy; and the education and training of women, and proposed ways and means to accelerate implementation in those four areas,

1. Calls upon Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies and other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society to cooperate in implementing the strategies adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and other recent international conferences;

2. Also calls upon Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes, while maintaining institutional arrangements to carry out research and develop methodologies and tools for mainstreaming and to advocate for women's equality and the enjoyment by women of their human rights;

3. Endorses the following agreed conclusions:

(a) Women and the environment;

(b) Women in power and decision-making;

(c) Women in the economy;

(d) Education and training of women.